

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 OTPE-00 DOTE-00

FAA-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 SP-03 H-03

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 CG-00 /166 W

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R 111149Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0748

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, TGEN, TSPA, XT, CA, AS, JA

SUBJECT: AEROSAT

REF: STATE 147471

1. CHAMOUX, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HANDLING
TELECOMMUNICATIONS QUESTIONS, INFORMS US THAT AEROSAT
REMAINS UNDER STUDY AT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND
RESEARCH. HE SAID THAT LATTER MINISTRY WAS CONCERNED
OVER FINANCING OF GROUND INSTALLATIONS FOR AEROSAT
ON BASIS OF REPORTS THAT EUROPEAN CIVIL AUTHORITIES
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MIGHT NOT BE VERY EAGER TO UTILIZE THE SYSTEM;

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY WANTS ASSURANCES THIS REGARD
BEFORE MOVING AHEAD.

2. CHAMOUX SAID THAT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND
RESEARCH WAS ALSO CONCERNED WITH OTHER HIGH PRIORITY
QUESTIONS, INCLUDING PROBLEMS IN FORMING NEW
EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY. HE INSISTED THAT AEROSAT
AND SPACE AGENCY QUESTIONS WERE NOT LINKED, HOWEVER,
AND SAID THAT IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF GIVING
TIME TO NEW TEAM AT THIS MINISTRY TO FOCUS ON THE
VARIOUS POLICY DECISIONS WITH WHICH THEY WERE
CONFRONTED. THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION TO AEROSAT
WITHIN GOF, HE ADDED, AND IN FACT FOREIGN MINISTRY
PROPOSED SHORTLY TO FOLLOW UP WITH MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH IN EFFORT EXPEDITE PROCEDURE TO
PERMIT EARLY SIGNATURE OF MOU. HOWEVER, CHAMOUX
WAS RELUCTANT TO GIVE ANY ESTIMATE AS TO TIMING.
HE RECALLED DELAYS IN AEROSAT PROJECT LAST YEAR TO
ACCOMMODATE USG AND HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG
WOULD NOW IN TURN BE PATIENT WITH GOF UNTIL ITS OWN
INTERNAL PROBLEMS RE AEROSAT WERE RESOLVED.

3. COMMENT: WHILE POSSIBILITY CANNOT OF COURSE
BE EXCLUDED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING CHAMOUX'S ASSURANCE
AEROSAT REVIEW MIGHT BE TIED TO OTHER ISSUES,
THUS FAR WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SUCH BELIEF.
WE ARE ALSO OF THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD INDEED BE
INAPPROPRIATE AND IMPOLITIC FOR US NOW TO PRESS
THE GOF FOR AN EARLY DECISION ON AEROSAT, GIVEN
OUR OWN PAST CONCERN OVER ACCEPTABILITY OF AEROSAT
TO OUR CARRIERS AND CONSEQUENT DELAYS TO WHICH WE
SUBJECTED THE PROJECT.
IRWIN

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30 JUN 2005

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